# [Arizona Labor Camps]

141 At the end of the 1950 season when harvesters were gleaning the last bits of fiber from the fields, spinal meningitis killed a baby and his 4-year old sister and hospitalized 6 other residents of a labor camp in the Stanfield area. State Health Department officials charged filthy conditions in the camp were responsible,[1] and treated 50 camp inhabitants with sulfa drugs after posting officers to quarantine the camp.[2]

These are conditions threatening permanent residents of the cotton growing counties, and Papago and other migrant workers who live in labor camps. This is why a reservation town like Santa Rosa can be virtually prostrated by influenza at the end of the picking season when the Desert People return to their reserves.

752 Some ills Papagos fall heir to in camps are more or less special cases, like the woman whose foot was run over by a car in Magdalena. Once in a while some one is 164 bitten by a spider. The Desert People are susceptible to 842 colds and pregnancy, as one farmer put it. But one ser- 853 ious problem they share with many Southwestern Indians 165 is a tendency to feed infants an unsuitable diet. In one labor camp 2 Papago babies died during the summer of 1950 from stomach disorders apparently resulting from eating green fruits in excess and other unsuited foods.

● 75 The health problem of the Desert People is compounded 179 by their reluctance to submit to European medical treatment. Papago attitudes toward European medicine vary a great deal, from educated individuals who rely on it to conservative families who have nothing to do with it. These most Papago of Papagos baffle farmers who trust in Western medicine implicitly and cannot fathom Papago reasons for not accepting it. One grower, himself of a minority group, could not understand how Papagos could "just lay there and die." But they can, and do, because they know nothing else. Their trust is in native medical practicioners. They do not turn to Western doctors because there have not been enough provided by the Indian Bureau to care for them, and the Papago medical staff has not effectively "sold" itself to the Desert People. All their training has taught the Desert People a system of disease and curing concepts totally different from those of the European doctor's.

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[1] Arizona Daily Star, Feb. 6, 1951.
[2] Tucson Daily Citizen, Feb. 6, 1951.